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New Light on our
Forest Question

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NEW LIGHT ON OUR FOREST QUESTION.

In response to a resolution of the United States Senate, the Forest Service has restudied the forest situation of the country. It was found that recent high prices of lumber, newsprint, turpentine, and other forest products have seriously affected many industries and in various ways have imposed formidable burdens on the public.

House building has been checked, farm development and upkeep hampered, and the cost of furniture, vehicles, tool handles, agricultural implements, and other articles heavily increased. Lumber prices have risen out of proportion to increased costs of production and distribution. The pulpwood and paper industry is in straits for raw material from the forests.

Depletion of the timber supplies in the eastern part of the United States has reached the point at which eastern and even southern markets are being invaded by West Coast lumber, hitherto barred by the high cost of transportation. The timber of the country as a whole is being used and destroyed four times as fast as new timber is growing, and the saw timber, the most valuable and most needed part of the stand, is being cut five and one-half times as fast as it is produced. More than 80,000,000 acres of land that should be growing timber is unproductive waste, much more is only partially productive, and fires are steadily causing further deterioration.

The new study of the situation made by the Forest Service contains many facts never before brought out, regarding both individual industries and conditions in individual States and regions. It discusses also the relation between forest depletion and the lumber prices, depletion and exports, and concentration in timber ownership, manufacture, and marketing. Fresh light is thrown on the question of timber monopoly.

Finally, a program is outlined for bringing about a fundamental and permanent change in the situation. Timber in large quantities will always be an economic necessity, and we must prepare to grow it. The measures required for this are outlined in full in two Forest Service publications just issued.

One of these is the complete text of the report on Senate resolution 311, and is entitled "Timber Depletion, Lumber Prices, Lumber Exports, and Concentration of Timber Ownership." It is sold, price 25 cents per copy (stamps not accepted), by the Superintendent of Public Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

The second publication is United States Department of Agriculture Circular 112, 16 pages, "Timber Depletion and the Answer." This is a summary of the report, and will be sent free, on request, by the United States Department of Agriculture. The accompanying post card can be used to secure the summary by filling out the blank for name and address and affixing a 1-cent stamp.

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